

MINUTES OF THE
BRADFORD FIRE DISTRICT MEETING
APRIL 8, 2013

Meeting called to order 6:31 pm by Moderator Frank Manfredi

Clerk notes that a quorum is present – requirement of 11 voters of the district plus two elected Board members having been met (Virginia Abbruzzese, Treasurer, and Frank Manfredi, Moderator). Also present is Tax Assessor Dan King.

First agenda item:

- District needs assessment report

Moderator introduced Mr. Don Jacobs of DI Jacobs Management Consulting Services, who delivered an oral presentation of the Needs Assessment Report. Multiple copies of the report were distributed.

Mr. Jacobs noted the following:

He experienced a remarkable lack of cooperation from officials inside and outside district, specifically from the Bradford Fire Chief and the Westerly Ambulance Corps, on a level that he has never encountered in over two decades in this line of work.

He stressed that the provision of fire services to the district was sound and he had no reason to question the competence or dedication of the individual firefighters.

He also reported that the treasurer has cooperated fully and the finances appear sound. From a financial standpoint, the District has a positive cash balance and the records are in order.

Because his report did not contain the normal data he would have obtained during a normal study, he was unable to provide assessments of our response times or district needs. He suggested that District draft RFPs to submit to neighboring fire districts to provide specific services so that decisions on future action can be made based on hard numbers.

In his one conversation with the Chief, he asked why the Board of Engineers had made the recommendation to merge with the Dunns Corners Fire District at the last annual meeting, and he reported that the Chief's response was 'I told them what they wanted to hear.'

Mr Jacobs took questions posed by various attendees:

Should we submit two different RFPs, one that assumes a fire station in the district and one that assumes no fire station in the district

If we vend out our fire protection services to a neighboring district, would charges potentially "spike" once the initial contract period is ended?

What happens if we are evicted from the present fire station?

Why does rent makes sense when we own the building, which has ADA compliance and other issues? Aren't we just getting ahead of ourselves?

Was the conclusion that the district is being managed poorly based upon a lack of information?

Was the lack of cooperation from those outside the district a large part of the information problem?

Should the district be broken up among the various neighboring districts?

What is the difference between contracting for services and consolidation?

Was there any contact made with individual firefighters?

Do we have a “ball park” figure for constructing a new facility?

What would consolidation do to homeowner’s insurance rates or response times?

How can a merger could be accomplished if we lose the volunteer firefighters?

Assistant Chief Bill Briggs expressed his feeling that the people of the district were undercutting the department.

A motion made by Al Clemence to accept Mr. Jacob’s report – seconded by Frank Algieri

Passed on voice vote

Second agenda item:

- Preliminary district merger discussions

Report of the Moderator on preliminary discussions with Dunns Corner fire district

The moderator reported that an informational conversation took place at a Dunns Corners Fire District meeting with himself and other individual taxpayers from the Bradford District in attendance. The process of consolidation was discussed in general terms and, while the Dunns Corners Fire District would consider a possible merger/acquisition, it is up to the Bradford District to initiate the process.

Third agenda item

- Appointment of and meeting schedule for a real estate purchase and sale study committee

The following individuals are appointed to the Real Estate Purchase and Sale Study Committee:

- John Mello 377-2938
- Bill Aiello -
- Al Clemence – 315-2511
- Anthony Algieri - 596-3676
- Connie Cartwright – 218-7780

The solicitor was queried on what we do with the building that we own if we are evicted from the land?

The solicitor noted that the agreement says we can take the building off the property

The Real Estate Purchase and Sale Study Committee will meet on April 29, 2013 at 6:30 pm at the Bradford Citizens Club

Fourth agenda item:

- meeting schedule for the Bylaws committee

The Bylaws Committee will meet on April 29, 2013 at 8:30 pm at the Bradford Citizens Club

Kevin Kern 377-9555